

OPC Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • JUNE 2005

Iraq, Terrorism Dominate OPC Awards

By Doug Merlino

The New York Times took five awards, the most ever in a single year, and *Nightline*'s Ted Koppel received his record tenth award at this year's 66th annual Overseas Press Club Awards, which were dominated by honors given for reporting on the war in Iraq and terrorism.

While the awards ceremony, held on April 27 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in New York, celebrated excellent foreign reporting produced during the last year, the evening was tempered by an awareness of a changing press climate in the United States and of increasing dangers facing journalists working abroad.

"It is ironic that some of the conditions that have produced the Overseas Press Club awards we will give out tonight have ominously appeared in our own country," said OPC President Richard B. Stolley at the beginning of the evening, noting that there are now 18 lawsuits in the United States involving journalists and the use of confidential sources.

Larry Martz, co-chair of the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee, said that 78 journalists were killed last year,



Dick Stolley of Time Inc. presents his President's Award to Bob Woodward of The Washington Post.

including 28 in Iraq. Martz introduced the family of Paul Klebnikov of *Forbes*, who was killed last year in Moscow. Klebnikov was the 11th journalist to die in a contract-style killing in Russia since Vladimir Putin became president, and his family lit a candle memorializing all journalists killed in the line of duty last year.

The first award of the evening went to Dexter Filkins of *The New York Times*, who received the Hal Boyle Award for best newspaper reporting from abroad for his articles on the battle for Fallujah.

It was the first of many awards handed out by presenter Ron Allen of NBC News for reporting on the war in Iraq. Filkins's colleague, 26-year-old *Times* photographer Ashley Gilbertson, won the Robert Capa Gold Medal Award for exceptional courage and enterprise for his photographs from Fallujah. Gilbertson recalled filing his photos from what were usually the only windowless, safe places he could find—the toilets of mosques.

Patrick Graham, one of the winners of the Ed Cunningham Award for best magazine reporting from abroad for his *Harper's* article on the Iraqi insurgency,

talked of the human cost of war, and noted the reporters he knew who were killed in Iraq. Graham, who had just attended the funeral of his friend, humanitarian worker Marla Ruzicka, choked up as he remembered her and her colleague, Faiz Ali Salim, both of whom were recently killed in a bombing in Iraq.

Washington Post photographer Andrea Bruce Woodall received the John Faber Award for best newspaper photographic reporting from abroad for her intensely intimate photographs of an Iraqi woman who turned to prostitution in order to feed her children after the death of her husband.

Many award winners provided an in-depth look at the dynamics and aftermath of terrorism.

New York Times photographer James Hill won the Feature Photography Award for his haunting photos of the aftermath of the Beslan school massacre in Russia. Russian photographer Dmitri Beliaikov won the Artyom Borovik Award for his images of the same event.

The involvement of the United States in the torture of prisoners was also the subject of a number of award winners. A team of reporters from Sweden's TV 4 won the Eric and Amy Burger Award for best international reporting dealing with human rights for their investigation into the "extraordinary rendition" of two Muslim men from Sweden to Egypt, where they were tortured. Mark Danner won the Madeline Dane Ross Award for his articles in *The New York Review of Books* on how "the highest authorities in the United States mapped out the road to Abu Ghraib." Seymour Hersh received the Joe and Laurie Dine Award for his ground-breaking reporting on Abu Ghraib in *The New Yorker*. Many awardees credited citation-winner CBS News "60 Minutes Wednesday" for breaking the story.

Ted Koppel and staffers from *Nightline* won the David Kaplan for their
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Mulligan's Tales of an Itinerant Life

OPC EVENT PREVIEW / JUNE 15

By Sonya K. Fry

Hugh Mulligan, veteran Associated Press reporter for five decades, has written a memoir/travel-



Hugh Mulligan at the 1981 wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana.

ogue of his intrepid world travels covering wars, famines, space shots, royal weddings and funerals and his favorite gig, covering the Vatican. He reported on the conclaves that elected three popes and 28 of Pope John Paul II's journeys abroad. The book's title "Been Everywhere Got Nowhere" [Frederick, MD: Hilliard and Harris] is a fitting reflection of Hugh's self-deprecating humor.

As a war correspondent, Mulligan covered two Arab-Israeli wars and conflicts in Ulster, Cyprus, Biafra, Angola and Beirut. He spent three years in Vietnam and a year in Cambodia. He was the only American correspondent to cross the Suez Canal with General Sharon's tanks in the Yom Kippur War. To list his one-on-one interviews is to name-drop shamelessly: Margaret Thatcher, John Glenn, General Westmoreland, Marilyn Monroe, Casey

Stengel, John Cardinal O'Connor, Joe DiMaggio, Tennessee Williams, John Steinbeck, The Shah of Iran, Benda Behan and Vladimir Nabokov.

Mulligan has won numerous writing and reporting awards including a 1966 OPC Award for best daily newspaper or wire service spot news reporting from abroad for his reports from Vietnam, the Sigma Delta Chi Award for foreign reporting, the Gold Medal of the American Newspaper Publishers Association

and the Freedom Foundation Medal. *More* magazine listed him among the "All Time Greats" in journalism.

Hugh is a dapper, witty gentleman who is sure to have a myriad of stories, amusing anecdotes and insights into his reporting adventures. The OPC book night is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15 with reception at 5:30pm and talk at 6:15pm. Books will be for sale and signing. Please RSVP to 212-626-9220.

Reminder: Bloggers, Hacks to Face Off

On June 1, the Overseas Press Club will host a distinguished group of mainstream journalists and bloggers to wrestle with the question: Are weblogs hurting or helping the American public remain informed about international news? Present to mull that and other questions will be a panel moderated by Columbia University School of Journalism's New Media Director **Sree Sreenivasan**. Panelists include **Joe Trippi**, blogger, MSNBC analyst and former campaign manager of the Howard Dean for President campaign; **Marshall Loeb**, columnist for MarketWatch from Dow Jones; **Paul Mirengoff**, one of the men behind

Powerline, the blog that brought the failings of CBS News on the Bush National Guard story to light; **Rebecca MacKinnon**, former CNN correspondent based in China and Japan and now a blogger at *RConversation*; and **Michael Moran**, a former BBC and Associated Press correspondent now working as senior correspondent for MSNBC.com and writing the *Sword and Pen* blog for the OPC site.

Join us on June 1 for a discussion that is on the cutting edge. Reception at 5:30pm with panel discussion scheduled for 6:15pm. Please RSVP to 212-626-9220. For a full discussion of this event, see last month's *Bulletin*.

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Middle East—Covering the Coverage

By Al Kaff

"Democracy, which can not be exported, is not a present you can give someone nor can it be dropped in a bomb."

—Shirin Ebadi, 2003 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, speaking at the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Tokyo in 2004

April 23

Saleh Ibrahim, a television cameraman working for the Associated Press, was killed and a colleague injured in Mosul, Iraq, when gunfire broke out after an explosion. Sixty-three correspondents have been killed in Iraq, more than in any other war involving the United States, according to figures collected by the *Bulletin*.

In the U.S. Civil War, eight correspondents lost their lives; two died of yellow fever in the Spanish American War; 15 Reuters correspondents were killed in World War I; 31 American correspondents were killed in World War II; in the Korean War, 18 journalists on the U.N. side were killed; and in Vietnam, 57 correspondents on the American side were killed, executed or died from disease.

April 24

Romania should not rush to pull its 800 troops out of Iraq to save the lives of three kidnapped Romanian correspondents, Romanian Prime Minister Calin Tariceanu said. But a poll showed overwhelming support for withdrawing the troops. The Romanian journalists, who work for Romanian Satellite Network's Prima TV, and their Iraqi-American interpreter, a U.S. citizen, were abducted in Baghdad March 28 (*May Bulletin*).

April 25

CNN correspondent Christiane Amanpour says it's emotionally difficult for her to cover the world's hot spots because of her 5-year-old son Darius. After Darius was born, Amanpour, 47, and her husband, James Rubin, 45, former U.S. State Department spokesman, agreed not to remain away from home more than two weeks at a time. But she told New York *Daily News* columnists George Rush and Joanna Molloy: "I feel increasingly afraid, not just for my life, but for what it will mean for my son. So it's increasingly difficult emotionally for me. But I'm still committed, because I think covering international news is getting more important, not less. And there are fewer people, not more, doing it."



Giuliana Sgrena at a Rome news conference with the director of her newspaper.

April 25—May 5

U.S. military investigators ruled that American soldiers did nothing wrong and will not be disciplined for firing on an automobile at a Baghdad checkpoint on March 4, killing Italian intelligence agent Nicola Calipari and wounding Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena, Reuters reported from Washington. Calipari had negotiated for the release of Sgrena, who had been kidnapped a month earlier (*April Bulletin*). The U.S. Army said Italy disputed the American claim that the car was speeding and failed to stop at the checkpoint. Italian officials said its intelligence agents coordinated with the U.S. military to travel on the road from Baghdad to the airport.

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi told parliament that investigation into Calipari's death was not finished, and he called news reports in Washington absolving the U.S. soldiers "unfortunate," *The New York Times* reported. Attempting to play down news leaks on the investigation, a U.S. embassy spokesman said the two governments were still working on the report: "We have not abandoned hope for a combined report. But there's some more work that needs to be done before that's going to happen."

On May 2, Italy issued a rebuttal to the U.S. report on the airport road shooting. Italian investigators said the American roadblock on the airport road was not clearly visible and the driver was not speeding. Italy suggested that "some level of inexperience and stress could have led soldiers to reactions that were instinctive and not well controlled."



Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi

On May 5, Prime Minister Berlusconi

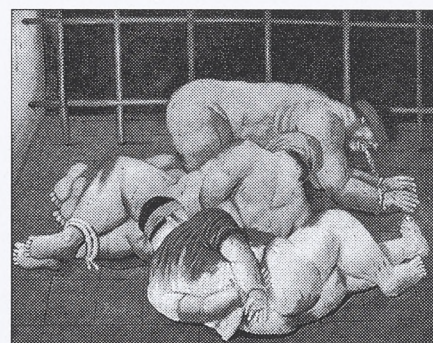
told the Italian Parliament that American soldiers could not be excused in the shooting death of an Italian intelligence agent, but the incident would not force him to withdraw Italy's 3,000 troops from Iraq. "The absence of intention does not rule out responsibility," the prime minister said, adding: "We have no intention of establishing any connection between the assessment of this case in which our official lost his life and the role of our country in Iraq."

April 27

Militants showed a new video of the three kidnapped Romanian journalists and their Iraq-American interpreter and said they would start executing them today if Romania refused to withdraw its troops from Iraq.

May 7

During the past 50 years, Fernando Botero became one of Latin America's best known living artists by painting pastoral scenes of small town life in Colombia, where he grew up. But last year, he started making a political statement with works depicting Colombia's guerrilla war. Now he has taken on the torture of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison. "These works are a



A painting by Fernando Botero

result of the indignation that the violations in Iraq produced in me and the rest of the world," Botero, 73, who now lives in Paris and New York, told Juan Forero of *The New York Times*. Botero's 48 paintings and sketches of naked prisoners attacked by dogs, dangling from ropes, beaten by guards, piled in a heap and being urinated on by a soldier go on exhibition in Rome at the Palazzo Venezia Museum June 16. They will be shown in October at the Würth Museum in Germany and next year at the Pinacoteca in Athens. Botero based his paintings on news reports, not on photographs.

2004 AWARDS AND WINNERS

HAL BOYLE AWARD

Best newspaper or wire service reporting from abroad

DEXTER FILKINS

The New York Times

"Street by Street in Fallujah"

CITATIONS:

Matthew McAllester
Newsday

"On the Frontline in Fallujah"

C.J. Chivers and Steven Lee Myers

The New York Times

"The Siege in Beslan"

BOB CONSIDINE AWARD

Best newspaper or wire service interpretation of international affairs

PHILIP P. PAN

The Washington Post

"China: Confronting the System"

CITATIONS:

Russell Carollo, Mike Wagner,

Mehul Srivastava, Ken McCall,

Jim DeBrosse, Larry Kaplow

Dayton Daily News

"The Toll of War"

Trudy Rubin

The Philadelphia Inquirer

"A Clear Eye on Iraq"

ROBERT CAPA GOLD MEDAL AWARD

Best published photographic reporting from abroad requiring exceptional courage and enterprise

ASHLEY GILBERTSON

The New York Times

"The Battle for Fallujah"

OLIVIER REBBOT AWARD

Best photographic reporting from abroad in magazines and books

PAOLO PELLEGRIN

Magnum for The New York Times Magazine

"How Did Darfur Happen?"

CITATIONS:

Mark Leong

Redux Pictures for Chronicle Books

"China Obscura"

Seamus Murphy

Newsweek

"Afghanistan Elections and Society"

JOHN FABER AWARD

Best photographic reporting from abroad in newspapers and wire services

ANDREA BRUCE WOODALL

The Washington Post

"The Cost of Liberty:

Prostitution in Iraq"

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD

Best feature photography published in any medium on an international theme

JAMES HILL

The New York Times

"Beslan"

LOWELL THOMAS AWARD

Best radio news or interpretation of international affairs

MICHAEL GOLDFARB,

ANNA BENSTED, GEORGE HICKS

WBUR-FM at Boston University

Inside Out Documentaries

"British Jihad"

CITATIONS:

Joe Richman and Sue Johnson

Radio Diaries and NPR

"Mandela: An Audio History"

NPR Foreign Desk

National Public Radio

"The War in Iraq"

DAVID KAPLAN AWARD

Best TV spot news reporting from abroad

TED KOPPEL, LEROY SIEVERS,

DAVID WRIGHT, ALMIN

KARAMEHMEDOVIC, RICK BENNET

ABC News—Nightline

"Spotlight on Darfur"

CITATION:

Kimberly Dozier

CBS Evening News

"Iraq at War"

EDWARD R. MURROW AWARD

Best TV interpretation or documentary on international affairs

DAVID FANNING, SHARON TILLER,

STEPHEN TALBOT, KEN DORN-

STEIN

WGBH and KQED—Frontline/World

"Stories from a Small Planet"

CITATIONS:

Dan Rather, Mary Mapes,

Dana Roberson Johnson,

Mary Alfieri

CBS News—60 Minutes

Wednesday

"Prisoners of War: Abu Ghraib"

Peter Jennings, Tom Yellin,

Sherry Jones

ABC News / PJ Productions

"Guantanamo"

ED CUNNINGHAM AWARD

Best magazine reporting from abroad

PATRICK GRAHAM

Harper's Magazine

"Beyond Fallujah:

A Year with the Iraqi Resistance"

— and —

MICHAEL WARE

Time

"Reports from Iraq"

THOMAS NAST AWARD

Best cartoons on international affairs

KEVIN (KAL) KALLAUGHER

The Baltimore Sun

CITATIONS:

Robert L. Ariail

The State (Columbia, SC)

Stephen P. Breen

The San Diego Union-Tribune

MORTON FRANK AWARD

Best business reporting from abroad in magazines

PETE ENGARDIO, DEXTER

ROBERTS, AARON BERNSTEIN

BusinessWeek

"The China Price"

CITATIONS:

Katherine Boo

The New Yorker

"The Best Job in Town"

Matthew Swibel

Forbes

"Two Faces of Dubai"

MALCOLM FORBES AWARD

Best business reporting from abroad in newspapers or wire services

KEN SILVERSTEIN and

T. CHRISTIAN MILLER

Los Angeles Times

"The Politics of Petroleum"

CITATION:

Michael Oneal

The Chicago Tribune

"Outsourcing: Pain and Profit"

CORNELIUS RYAN AWARD

Best non-fiction book on international affairs

STEVE COLL

The Penguin Press

"Ghost Wars"

MADELINE DANE ROSS AWARD

Best international reporting in the print medium showing a concern for the human condition

MARK DANNER

The New York Review of Books

"Torture and Truth"

CITATION:

Molly Bingham

World Picture News, Vanity Fair

"Ordinary Warriors: The Iraqi

Resistance"

CARL SPIELVOGEL AWARD

Best international reporting in the broadcast media showing a concern for the human condition

TIM WOLOCHATIUK,

SIMCHA JACBOVICI, RIC ESTHER

BIENSTOCK, JENNIFER HYDE,

SID BEDINGFIELD

Associated Producers for CNN

and CBC

"CNN Presents: 'Impact of Terror'"

CITATION:

Lisa Zeff

ABC News Productions/

Discovery Health

"Super Surgery: A Face Restored"

JOE and LAURIE DINE AWARD

Best international reporting in a print medium dealing with human rights

SEYMOUR M. HERSH

The New Yorker

"The Abu Ghraib Scandal"

CITATION:

Peter Landesman

The New York Times Magazine

"The Girls Next Door"

ERIC and AMY BURGER AWARD

Best international reporting in the broadcast media dealing with human rights

SVEN BERGMAN,

JOACHIM DYFVERMARK,

FREDRIK LAURIN

TV 4 Sweden

"Cold Facts: The Broken Promise"

CITATION:

Claudine LoMonaco and Mary

Spicuzza

WGBH and KQED

Frontline / World

"A Death in the Desert"

WHITMAN BASSOW AWARD

Best reporting in any medium on international environmental issues

JANE PERLEZ

The New York Times

"Indonesia: Poisoning Buyot Bay"

CITATIONS:

Daniel Glick, Fen Montaigne,

Virginia Morell

National Geographic

"Signs from Earth"

Charles Wohlforth

North Point Press

(Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

"The Whale and the

Supercomputer: On the Northern

Front of Climate Change"

ROBERT SPIERS BENJAMIN AWARD

Best reporting in any medium on Latin America

STEPHEN SEGALLER and

ANGUS MACQUEEN

Thirteen/WNET, Channel 4,

October Films Ltd.

Wide Angle: "An Honest Citizen"

CITATION:

Scott Johnson with

Mac Margolis

Newsweek

"Latin America Lags Behind"

ARTYOM BOROVIK AWARD

For outstanding reporting by a Russian journalist who displays courage, insight, balanced yet aggressive reporting, and independence of thought

DMITRI BELIAKOV

Bratishka, Special Forces

Magazine; also Paris Match,

Stern, The Sunday Times and

International Herald Tribune

"Beslan"

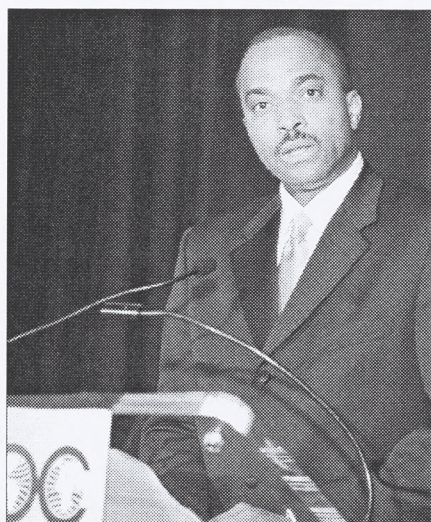
CITATION:

Anastasia Korobkova

AstrTelsKom—Astrakhan TV

"Named a Terrorist"

Iraq and Terrorism Dominant Themes at 66th OPC Awards



Awards Presenter Ron Allen of NBC News.



OPC Presidents Rowan, Gelber, Stolley and Martz pose with the star of the evening, Bob Woodward.

(Continued from Page 1)

stories on the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan. With his tenth award, Koppel passed Edward R. Murrow, who won nine during his career.

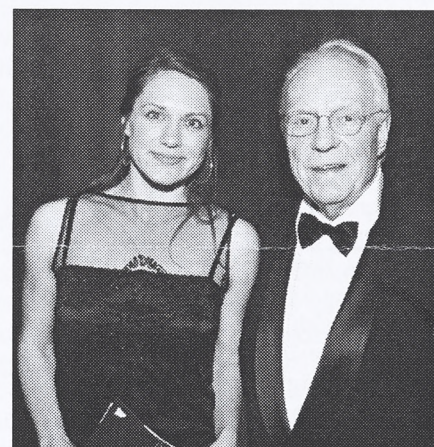
Other award winners looked at the effects of globalization and the changing world economy, with stories on the Chinese economy, the politics of oil and gold mining in Indonesia.

Bob Woodward of *The Washington Post* received the President's Award.

In an age where information is disseminated faster and faster, Woodward said, one of the main challenges facing journalists is how to put on the brakes enough to get the full story. "Journalism is a slow, tedious process," he said. "It is about filling in the gaps and returning again and again."



OPC "People" columnist Al Kaff with his wife Diane.



Andrea Bruce Woodall of The Washington Post won the John Faber Award for her photos from Iraq about a woman forced into prostitution to support her family.



Paul Klebnikov's family, Michael, Peter and Anna, light the candle in honor of their slain brother and all the other journalists killed in the line of duty in 2004.



Participants in the Artyom Borovik Award (l-r): Galina Borovik, Artyom's mother; Jonathan Sanders, Borovik Judge; and Dmitri Beliaikov, Russian photojournalist winner of 2004 Borovik Award.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DAMES

Roger Cohen: Nazi Crimes and Silenced GIs

By Doug Merlino

In the waning days of World War II, 350 American soldiers were removed from a German POW camp and forced to work as slave laborers building tunnels for a planned synthetic oil storage facility in the town of Berga, Germany. Seventy-three of the men died there or on a forced march away from the camp in the last days of the war.

The soldiers' sad and absurd story is related by Roger Cohen in his new book, "Soldiers and Slaves: American POWs Trapped by the Nazis' Final Gamble" [New York: Alfred A. Knopf]. In a talk at Club Quarters on May 16 to an audience that included World War II veterans, OPC member Cohen spoke about why he wanted to uncover the little-known story, why it held resonance for him, and attempts by American authorities to silence the tale.

"Berga at the beginning was a Nazi crime, but its cover-up was the result of Cold War politics," Cohen said. "It was only with the end of the Cold War that we managed to get the truth."

Cohen, now a foreign affairs writer for *The New York Times*, became Berlin correspondent for the paper in 1998. Cohen, who is Jewish, said it was initially hard to accept the assignment to Germany, but he became intrigued by the way Germans dealt with their memories of the war. When he traveled to Berga to write a story on a film being made by documentary maker Charles Guggenheim about the Berga camp, Cohen realized the story might be a way to delve into these "locked drawers" of memory.

"I wanted to examine this whole question of the small gestures that the various people, who by not listening to their consciences, allowed things to happen, told themselves they didn't know what was happening, made the decision not to ask the difficult questions," Cohen said.

The American soldiers sent to Berga were mostly captured at the Battle of the Bulge. The men, all of them privates, were then selected by the Germans for either being or looking Jewish, a process that was aided by some American officers, Cohen said. At Berga, the POWs—along with European Jews transported from other concentration camps—were treated as slave labor, working grueling days digging tunnels while being fed thin soup and scraps of bread.



Michelle Somers of Alfred A. Knopf; Roger Cohen; Werner Schmidt, Press Consul, German Consulate General.

When the American POWs arrived at the camp, it was February 1945. Hitler was in his bunker and the Soviet and American armies were closing in on Berlin. Cohen pointed out that the plan for underground oil storage was ridiculous, given the state of the war, yet the commanders of the camp kept up the program.

Cohen's research for the book included interviews with many survivors as well as materials such as the diary of a man who died in the camp and declassified German security files. Some of Cohen's work was based on research done by Guggenheim, who died of pancreatic cancer in October 2002. Although Cohen became foreign editor of the *Times* on September 11, 2001, Cohen said he was driven to tell the story of Berga, partly to set the history straight, and partly because he believed it contains themes that illuminate the current state of Germany.

After the war, the Berga story disappeared. The two Germans who ran the camp were sentenced to death in 1946, but had their sentences reduced on appeal. Both were eventually released from prison in the 1950s. Even more surprising, Cohen found that American soldiers at Berga were made to sign oaths that they would not speak about their experiences under the threat of being sent to prison in the United States.

"It seems incredible today that that could have happened," Cohen said.

Cohen speculated on a few reasons for the "gag order." After the war, he said, the American government wanted to focus in building relations with West

Germany. Revelations about Berga could have embarrassed the new West German government. In addition, Berga was in Communist East Germany, so it was geographically inaccessible. American officers also were complicit in identifying some of the men sent to Berga, an "outrage" the American military might have wanted to suppress. Finally, Cohen said, simple anti-Semitism might have been involved.

All this has meant that "it has taken a long time to get to the truth about Berga."

Now that the men who suffered at Berga have begun to talk and share memories, Cohen said he has seen many striking scenes of emotional catharsis. When one survivor saw a Red Cross armband he signed upon liberation, he told Cohen it finally made him sure that his time at the camp actually happened and wasn't just a nightmare.

Cohen said he admired how the men went on with their lives after the war. "These survivors were heroic in some ways, heroic at least for their modesty, for the way they got on with their lives, for the way they pushed back this memory for sixty years, raised their children, got themselves an education, and went to work," he said.

The 17 tunnels dug by the prisoners at Berga are now blocked off and have become nature habitats for bats. The barracks have fallen down and are in ruins. In the end, Cohen said, we can't change history, but "we can change memory, which is a living thing, and in the case of Berga, I think we should."

DOUG MERLINO



PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

AMSTERDAM:

Indian photographer
Arko Datta of Reu-

ters won the 2004 Photo of the Year Award for his picture of a woman in southern India mourning the death of a relative killed in the tsunami. Second prize went to **David Robert Swanson** of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* for his photo of an American soldier in Iraq. World



World Press Photo of the Year

Press Photo, a nonprofit foundation based in Amsterdam, gave prizes to more than 60 professional photographers from two dozen countries. They were chosen from almost 70,000 entries submitted by more than 4,000 photographers. Argentine photographer **Diego Goldberg**, chairman of this year's jury, said, "We had a lot of discussion this year because of the Abu Ghraib photos and the coffin pictures" of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq, but they were taken by amateurs, and World Press Photo is restricted to professional photographers. An exhibit of the winning photos opened in May at United Nations headquarters in New York.

BARNSTABLE, Massachusetts:

Three years after she was stabbed to death, police arrested a suspect in the murder of **Christa Worthington**, 46, a former fashion news correspondent who reported from London, Paris and New York. Christopher McCowen, 33, a trash collector in Worthington's Cape Cod neighborhood, was arrested this spring on the basis of a DNA sample that he gave a year earlier. Authorities said it took so long to analyze McCowen's DNA sample because of a backup in the state crime laboratory. With a single stab



Christa
Worthington

wound in her chest, Worthington's body, naked from the waist down, was found in January 2002 in the bungalow where she lived. Worthington retired to Cape Cod after a reporting career in Europe and America with *Women's Wear Daily*. Her writing also appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Independent* of London, *Harper's Bazaar*, *W* and *Elle*. A best-selling book about the crime, "Invisible Eden" [New York: Broadway Books, 2003] was written by **Maria Flook**, a fiction and non-fiction author who lived just a mile from Worthington but never met her. Flook teaches at Emerson College in Boston.

BEIJING: When **Melinda Liu** opened *Newsweek's* first Beijing bureau in 1980, the city was isolated and dilapidated, and she had to elude police surveillance to interview rural victims of the Cultural Revolution. "But since Melinda returned in 1998, the city and the beat have been transformed," editor **Mark Whitaker** wrote in the magazine's May 9 issue. "Now Chinese of all stripes call her on her cell phone to air grievances and offer scoops. She's listened to Chinese yuppies brag about half-million-dollar apartments, and peasants weep over land confiscated to make room for the Olympics." Liu, an OPC member, commented: "Covering China's rise has been an emotional roller coaster from the Tiananmen tragedy to today's economic boom."

Several Chinese press articles have called **Hu Shuli**, 52, the "most dangerous woman in China" because her business magazine aggressively reports on government corruption and corporate fraud in China. Published twice monthly, *Caijing* (*Finance and Economy*) has carried articles on stock market manipulation, corruption in some of the nation's largest state-owned banks and the government's cover-up of the 2003 SARS epidemic. "While press freedoms are severely restricted here," **David Barboza** wrote in a *New York Times* dispatch from Beijing, "the govern-



Hu Shuli

ment—perhaps hoping to develop an open and robust capital market system—has given the business news outlets here greater latitude and broader press freedoms." **Orville Schell**, who moderated the OPC's May program on Chinese capitalism and is dean of the graduate school of journalism at the University of California, Berkeley, told *The Times* that Hu's magazine "picked the perfect niche—business—which gives them the maximum latitude to do investigative work in China." Several of the magazine's 50 young journalists trained at Berkeley under Schell.

COLOMBO: **Dharmeratnam Sivaram**, 46, a Tamil journalist, was found shot to death in April after unidentified assailants seized him in a Colombo restaurant. Sivaram, who favored mainstream Tamil rebels over a breakaway faction, was a columnist for the English-language *Daily Mirror*, and he wrote on his TamilNet Web site about the Sri Lankan civil war and peace efforts in the country.

DARFUR: **Brad Clift**, a photographer for Connecticut's *Hartford Courant* who was working on a freelance assignment in Sudan, was detained and placed under house arrest this spring after officials accused him of taking photographs at a camp for displaced people in Nyala without proper authorization. "I am being accused unjustly for trying to take a picture of someone suffering in a camp," Clift said in a cellphone call to the *Courant*. In May, the paper said Clift was held for about two weeks.

HARARE: Two reporters from London's *Sunday Telegraph* accused of illegally reporting on Zimbabwe's March parliamentary elections were acquitted after a judge ruled that the government's evidence was so confused that it actually helped the defense. They were arrested outside a polling station on charges of working without state accreditation, required for foreign correspondents. The judge said their digital camera held no incriminating photographs and their shorthand notes were indecipherable. Their lawyer argued that the correspondents were in Zimbabwe on vacation.

HO CHI MINH CITY: Dozens of American, British and Australian correspondents who covered the Vietnam War
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PEOPLE

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returned for a five-day reunion on the 30th anniversary of the war's end. At the reunion, **Richard Pyle**, AP bureau chief in Saigon during the war and now with the AP in New York, told **Bernard Weinraub**, who covered the war for *The New York Times* and retired from the paper this January: "Vietnam was a magnetic force—you can't define it. It wasn't just the best story of our careers, it transcended that. We all moved on to other things, but we all have Vietnam in our systems forever. You never really get away from Vietnam. It's always there." As for the reunion, Pyle commented: "This may be the last hurrah. Who knows? The next one may be held in our wheelchairs." Some of the correspondents tried to contact **Pham Xuan An**, who during the war worked for Reuters and then *Time* and was a popular member of the press corps. When the war ended, it was disclosed that An also was a North Vietnamese espionage agent. At the reunion, An, 78, told Weinraub by telephone that he was too ill from emphysema to chat. The reunion was organized by OPC members **Edie Lederer**, now AP bureau chief at the United Nations, and **Horst Faas**, retired after a long career as an AP photographer, editor and manager.



Vietnamese soldiers re-enacted the fall of Saigon on the 30th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

HONG KONG: Hugh van Es has spent decades attempting to correct a caption error on the most widely published photo of the end of the Vietnam War. Taken on April 29, 1975, the day before Communist troops entered Saigon, the van Es picture shows people scrambling up a ladder to board an evacuation helicopter. In a *New York Times* op-ed article published on the 30th anniversary of the evacuation, the photographer wrote: "Well, like so many things about the Vietnam War, it's not exactly what it seems." Captions pub-



NOT the American Embassy.

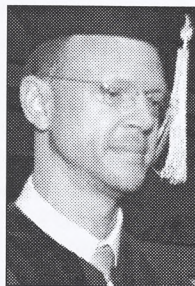
lished for years described the helicopter as evacuating people from the top of the U.S. Embassy. But the helicopter was on the roof of an apartment building where CIA employees lived. "For the caption, I wrote very clearly that the helicopter was taking evacuees off the roof of a downtown Saigon building," van Es wrote. "Apparently editors didn't read captions carefully in those days, and they just took it for granted that it was the embassy roof, since that was the main evacuation site. This mistake has been carried on in the form of incorrect captions for decades. My efforts to correct the misunderstanding were futile, and eventually I gave up."

Van Es was working in the UPI darkroom in Saigon when the late **Bert Okuley**, a UPI correspondent, shouted: "Van Es, get out here, there's a chopper on that roof!" He grabbed a camera with the longest lens in the office, 300 millimeters, and shot about 10 frames. A freelance Dutch photographer, van Es has lived in Hong Kong since leaving Vietnam and continues to cover world hot spots, including the Moro rebellion in the Philippines and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

LONDON: *The Financial Times* started a free afternoon edition this spring in an effort to attract more readers to its online and main editions. The slimmed-down paper is made available daily in Britain to businesses, airlines and hotels.

MARYLAND:

OPC member **Howard French** was the recipient on April 23 of an honorary doctorate in letters from the University of Maryland for his coverage of Asia. French, Shanghai bureau chief for *The New York Times*, was also the commencement speaker at the University



Howard French

College campus in Tokyo in the presence of the president of the University of Maryland.

NAIROBI: Music at a party held by the World Bank's departing country director was too loud for Lucy Kibaki, wife of Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki. Before the guests, who included diplomats and other notables, she demanded three times that the music be stopped. She became angrier when a newspaper article described her protests, and on May 3 she stormed into the office of *The Nation*, confiscated notebooks, tape recorders and pens, and demanded to know the whereabouts of a reporter who had written the article in a rival newspaper. She "then camped herself for much of the night at the desk of the newspaper's editor, unleashing a fury of broadsides at the staff," OPC member **Marc Lacey** of *The New York Times* reported. When a local TV crew arrived, she slapped a cameraman.

NEW YORK: *The Miami Herald* published an article about pollution in Peru written by **Marina Walker Guevara**, and she told OPC Foundation President **Bill Holstein**: "The story wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of the Overseas Press Club of America and the Freedman family." Mariana won the Foundation's Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship this year, and the \$2,000 award helped finance her research. Her *Miami Herald* dispatch from La Oroya, Peru, reported that 99.9 percent of children 6 and under in La Oroya Antigua have a level of lead in their blood well above the international standard. Classmates call first grader Mishell Barzola "midget" because at age 6 she is six inches shorter and 14 pounds lighter than the Peruvian average. Her family blames lead pollution from a giant metal smelter that processes lead, zinc, copper, silver and gold. The 83-year-old smelter releases about two tons of lead into the air each day, Marina wrote. Doe Run Company of the United States bought the smelter from the Peruvian government in 1997, but said it can not afford to clean up the environmental mess because of competition from China and a decline in the price of lead.

Three of this year's National Magazine Awards dealt with conflicts overseas. *The New Yorker* won awards for three articles by **Seymour M. Hersh**,

which detailed torture at Abu Ghraib, and **Samantha Power's** "Dying in Darfur." *Time* won in the photo portfolio/photo essay category with "The Tragedy of Sudan" that featured photographs by **James Nachtwey**. *The New Yorker* won the most awards, five of the 22. The awards are sponsored by the American Society of Magazine editors in association with Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism.

◆ **Michael Oreskes**, deputy managing editor of *The New York Times*, will become executive editor of *The International Herald Tribune* in Paris this summer. Oreskes succeeds **Walter Wells**. Oreskes, 51, joined *The Times* from the New York *Daily News* and was a *Times* correspondent and bureau chief in Washington before moving to the head office.



Michael Oreskes

◆ *The Wall Street Journal* plans to convert its European and Asian editions to tabloid format starting Oct. 17. The current 24-page broadsheets will become 36 to 40 tabloid pages, *WSJ* spokesman **Robert H. Christie** said. The conversion is expected to save \$17 million annually, cutting down on newsprint but reducing the space for news by as much as one-third. *The New York Times* said the tabloid format is intended to attract younger readers. Circulation of the European edition published in Brussels was 86,156 in May and the Asian edition published in Hong Kong was 80,883.

ROME: Prime Minister **Silvio Berlusconi's** family is selling a 2 billion euro (U.S. \$2.58 billion) stake in the broadcasting company Mediaset to reduce accusations of a conflict of interest. But the family remains the principle shareholders of Mediaset, Italy's largest private broadcaster with three TV channels. Berlusconi's holdings also include a publishing house.

SAN FRANCISCO: OPC member **Arthur Ochs Sulzberger**, publisher of *The New York Times* from 1963-1992 and now the paper's chairman emeritus, was awarded the Katharine Graham Lifetime Achievement Award by the Newspaper Association of America at

its annual meeting this spring. Association chairman **Gregg K. Jones** said Sulzberger, 79, deserved recognition for two main reasons: publishing the Pentagon Papers in 1971 and reinvesting in *The Times* during the financial crises of the 1960s and 1970s. Accepting the award, Sulzberger recalled that he and the late **Katharine Graham**, publisher of *The Washington Post*, met in Paris in 1967 to conclude their deal to publish jointly *The International Herald Tribune*. Unable to agree on whether to call it a publication of *The Times* and *The Post* or *The Post* and *The Times*, they tossed a coin. "Kay called, and I won," Sulzberger said. "Too bad more journalistic differences aren't settled in this sensible way."

STAMFORD, Connecticut: When they were schoolboys in Germany during World War II, Joseph Ratzinger and **Jack Koehler** enrolled in the Hitler Youth movement, mandatory for all high school students. Ratzinger now is the new Pope Benedict XVI. From Munich, *The New York Times* reported that "historians and Jewish groups agree that the pope's wartime record, which was very common to young men of his generation, has little if any significance today." But for Koehler, the Hitler Youth came back to haunt him decades later. After working as an AP correspondent in Bonn and Berlin and reporting throughout Western Europe, Koehler was appointed communications director at the Reagan White House. But he resigned a few weeks later amid a wave of unfavorable and incorrect publicity on his Hitler Youth membership. Koehler told "People" that he met Ratzinger a couple of times when the prelate was archbishop in Munich and found him to be a warm, modest man with a great sense of humor. Koehler now is working on a book that deals with the Vatican.

TAIPEI: Taiwan has stopped issuing visas to reporters from China's official New China News Agency and the *People's Daily*, China's main Communist Party newspaper. The last visas to the Chinese media expired in April. The government of Taiwan said both organizations had presented a distorted view of events on the island and objected to coverage of Taiwanese and international reaction to a new Chinese law that authorizes the use of "non-peaceful means" to regain control of Taiwan if it seeks

formal independence, OPC member **Keith Bradsher** of *The New York Times* reported.

WASHINGTON: A generation or so apart, **Barrett McGurn**, OPC president 1963-1965, reported during World War II from the Solomon Islands for *Yank*, the soldiers' magazine, and OPC member **David Lamb** covered his first war in Vietnam when he was with UPI. This spring they described the challenges of war reporting on the C-Span program "Close Up."

◆ **Judy Woodruff**, 58, anchor of CNN's "Inside Politics," has changed her priorities. She will leave CNN in June when her contract expires to devote her time to teaching, writing and working on documentaries. She'll also be a consultant and occasional contributor to CNN. Judy presented the OPC awards at the 2003 annual awards dinner.

WHITE PLAINS, New York: A federal court judge scolded **Andy Rooney** for asking questions from the witness stand about the wording of the oath to tell the truth. "No, no, no, Mr. Rooney," said Judge Colleen McMahon. "The first rule is the witness never gets to ask any questions...even if he's a journalist." The grumpy old complainer on CBS News' "60 Minutes" was the first witness in this spring's fraud trial of Alan Walker, who ran Program Corporation of America, a speakers' bureau. Rooney, an OPC member, testified that Walker owes him about \$10,000 from a 2003 speech at Indiana State University. Other witnesses were former NBA star Magic Johnson, retired astronaut Scott Carpenter and Robert Ballard, the undersea explorer who found the wreck of the Titanic.

WEDDING

Norman Pearlstine, editor-in-chief of Time, Inc., and Jane Boon, an industrial engineer, were married April 19 by a fed-



Jane Boon and Norman Pearlstine

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eral appeals judge in New York City. Pearlstine, 62, an OPC member, was managing editor of *The Asian Wall Street Journal* in Hong Kong; executive editor of *Forbes*; and editor and publisher of *The Wall Street Journal/Europe* in Brussels before he joined Time Inc. in 1994. Boon, 37, is an engineering consultant in New York, specializing in improving the flow of products and materials for industrial clients.

IN MEMORY

Tony Fuller, 62, co-author of a book that traced the experiences of 54 Vietnam War veterans, died May 6 of a stroke in New York City, where he lived. When he was a *Newsweek* senior editor, Fuller and **Peter Goldman**, another senior editor at the magazine, published "Charlie Company: What Vietnam Did to Us" [New York: Newsweek/William Morrow, 1983]. After working at *Newsweek* from 1972-1991, Fuller was assistant managing editor of *New York* magazine for four years. He then worked in corporate public relations, retiring in 2001 as vice president for media relations at Avis Rent A Car.

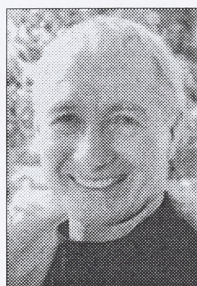
David H. Hackworth, 74, a highly decorated veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars who went on to become a magazine and newspaper columnist and a peace advocate, died May 4 in a Tijuana, Mexico, hospital where he was being treated for bladder cancer. After leaving military service, Hackworth was a military affairs correspondent for *Newsweek* during the Gulf War. In recent years his column, "Defending America," syndicated by King Features, was critical of the Bush administration's handling of the Iraq War, charging that "the White House and the Pentagon are run by civilians who have never sweated it out on a battlefield." Last year Hackworth touched off a national debate when he reported that Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld used a machine to sign condolence letters to families of soldiers killed in Iraq rather than personally signing them. Hackworth wrote several books, including "Hazardous Duty: America's Most Decorated Living Soldier Reports from the Front and Tells It the Way It Is" [New York: Morrow, 1966], written with **Tom Matthews**.

After joining the U.S. Merchant Marine at age 14 and serving in the South

Pacific, Hackworth at age 15 paid a wino to pose as his father and certify he was old enough to join the Army. At 20, he won a battlefield commission, becoming the youngest captain in the Korean War, during which he received three Purple Hearts. He was the youngest full colonel in the Vietnam War, winning a total of 91 medals. Often independent and even rebellious, Hackworth once threatened to take his troops to Canada if commanders continued talking about the use of nuclear weapons in Vietnam. "He ran a bordello and a massage parlor to keep his men happy and relatively protected from a virulent strain of syphilis," **Douglas Martin** wrote in a *New York Times* obituary.

In a 1971 interview with *Newsweek*, General Creighton Abrams, a top commander in Vietnam, called Hackworth "the best battalion commander I ever saw in the United States Army." Shortly before Abrams made his comment, Hackworth appeared on ABC's TV program "Issues and Answers" criticizing the conduct of the war, saying it could not be won and claiming that as many as 20 percent of American combat deaths resulted from accidental friendly fire. The Army's inspector general responded with a report that Hackworth was derelict in his duties. Abrams and other top officers then moved to court martial him. He was finally granted an honorable discharge with full benefits, but he gave up his medals to protest the Vietnam War. Hackworth then went to Australia, where he bought some gas stations and made millions owning and running an upscale restaurant and a duck farm, the AP reported.

Bob Hunter, 63, a Canadian journalist and a founder of the environmental group Greenpeace, died May 2 of prostate cancer. In the 1960s, he was a columnist for *The Vancouver Sun* and most recently was ecology news specialist for Canadian TV channels Citytv and CP24. Hunter coined the phrase "Don't Make a Wave" to describe



David Hackworth



Bob Hunter

his opposition to nuclear testing. He brought public attention to the hunting of whales and seals, and to the dumping of toxic wastes into the oceans. In 1973, he became Greenpeace's first president.

Stanley Rich, 81, a correspondent in Asia for 22 years and a longtime OPC member, died of cardiomyopathy on May 1 in a Washington, D.C. hospital. Between 1945-1967, Stan worked for UP, AP, ABC and McGraw Hill with postings in Manila, Shanghai, Seoul, Jakarta and Hong Kong. He joined the U.S. Information Service in 1967, serving in Vietnam, Bangladesh, Thailand and Ghana. After retiring from USIA in 1981, he became a literary agent for his wife of 57 years, author **Doris L. Rich**, who survives. During World War II, Stan was an ambulance driver with the American Field Service in India. In 1949, he was news editor of Hong Kong's daily *China Mail* and then co-founder and for two years associate editor of the daily *Hong Kong Standard*. He was one of the founders of the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Hong Kong after its 1948 move from Shanghai and its president, 1965-1966.

Charles Hauser, 76, a United Press correspondent in London and Paris following three years of Korean War service with the U.S. Army, died April 17 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. After returning to the United States, he worked for newspapers in North Carolina and Virginia before joining Rhode Island's *Providence Journal*, where he was editor for many years. In 1985, his newspaper defied a federal government order and published government documents based on illegally taped personal conversations of a man reputed to be an organized crime boss. A federal judge fined the newspaper and sentenced Hauser to 18 months in prison. The conviction was set aside on appeal, affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court, and he served no time in prison.

Ellen Lentz, 88, a former correspondent based in Germany for U.S. news organizations, died of heart failure on April 10 in a Berlin hospital. Born in Berlin to a German father and a half-American mother, Lentz worked for *The New York Herald Tribune* and United Press before joining *The New York Times* in Berlin in 1959. She reported from West and East Berlin for *The Times* until retiring in 1981.

◆ In 1970, Englishman **Robert Whymant**, then 25, introduced himself to a group of war correspondents in Saigon and announced that he was on his way to Japan to become a journalist and cover the rise of North Asia's economic superpowers. In Tokyo he read books on North Asian history, perfected his Japanese and reported for British newspapers including *The Guardian*, *The Telegraph* and *The Times*. He interviewed the Marcoses in the Philippines, flew with World Airways President Ed Daly in Vietnam evacuation



Robert Whymant

flights, and covered Japan's economic boom and its plunge into recession. His dog, Mako-chan, was the author of a book about the life of a dog news reporter, ghostwritten by Whymant. After two decades of research, Whymant published "Stalin's Spy Ring: Richard Sorge and the Tokyo Espionage Ring" [New York: St. Martin's, 1998], a book that Australian correspondent **Murray Sayle** described in the *London Review of Books* as a "masterly untangling of the four-cornered intrigues, betrayals and brutalities of Communists, Nationalists, Japanese and Soviets in China of the 1930s and 1940s." Last year, Whymant traveled to Sri Lanka with his wife Mineko, to check on the feasibility of providing help to the Tamils, which in the words of Belgian correspondent **Edwin Karmiol**, was

"another example of how deeply Robert cared for the underdog, as he did about other issues around the world." Whymant lost his life in Sri Lanka in the Dec. 26, 2004, tsunami.

◆ **Wee Kim Wee**, 89, a former United Press correspondent in Singapore who went on to become his nation's president, died May 2 in Singapore after a long battle against cancer. Before World War II, when Singapore was a British colony, Wee was a reporter for the daily *Straits Times*. He joined United Press in 1950. Singapore gained independence in 1959, and Wee returned to the *Straits Times* in the 1960s. Later he became a Singaporean diplomat, serving as high commissioner to Malaysia and ambassador to Japan and South Korea. From 1985-1993, he was president of Singapore, a largely ceremonial post, under Prime Minister Lee Kwan Yew. Handsome and with the bearing of a diplomat, Kim Wee, as he was called, was a modest, courteous gentleman, respected and admired by his many friends in the international press corps.

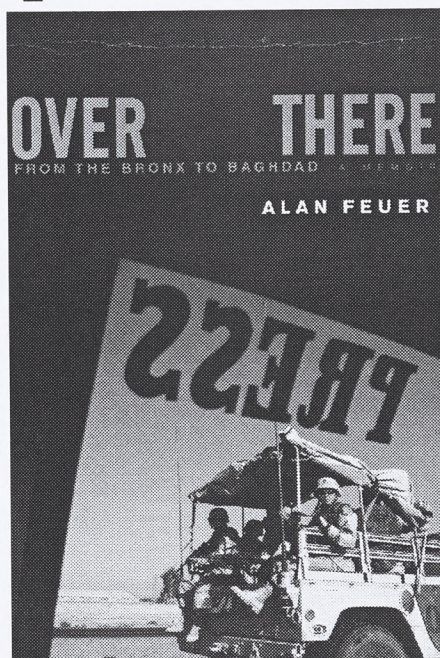
From the Bronx to Baghdad: Struggling to Report the War

OPC EVENT PREVIEW / JUNE 6

Alan Feuer, who had been a staff writer at *The New York Times* reporting on the Bronx and Harlem for the Metropolitan section since 1999, found himself in the Spring of 2003 in the Middle East covering the U.S. invasion of Iraq. His new book, "Over There: From the Bronx to Baghdad; A Memoir" [New York: Counterpoint], focuses on the small details of the big invasion story, on the people as much as the events.

In this engaging look at a reporter in wartime, Feuer details the results of the international media glut in Iraq to hilarious and moving effect. Alternately brash and self-deprecating, his vivid descriptions of the (often bumbling) interactions that form the news we get are often surprising, disheartening and poignant.

Publisher's Weekly calls the book "a perceptive insider's account of the making of the news, filled with vivid sketches of fellow journalists and with the nuts-and-bolts details of stalking and seducing sources and piecing stories together from illegible notes in the face of near-impossible deadlines. It's also a trenchant, at times self-lacerating, critique of the media itself and its shallowness and isolation, its swarming of shell-shocked Iraqis, its drive to



"Over There" book jacket

reduce human tragedy to poignant sound bites."

Basic Books/Counterpoint Press, mediabistro.com and the OPC will celebrate the launch of Alan Feuer's first book on Monday, June 6 at Club Quarters. Reception will begin at 6:00pm followed by the book talk. Reservations necessary: call 212-626-9220.

NEW BOOKS

(Continued from Page 12)

Ishafan, Iran, graveyard of 7,000 men who were killed during the eight-year war with Iraq. *New York Times* book reviewer **Michiko Kakutani** wrote: "Where 'Rose Garden' is most powerful is giving us impressionistic glimpses of every day life in Iran. As a British journalist who writes for *The Economist*, *The New Yorker* and *The New York Review of Books*, Mr. de Bellaigue experiences the suspicion of Westerners evinced by so many Iranians. He gripes about being suspected of being a British spy, and he complains about the culture's elaborate, seemingly hypocritical mores—like sanctioning 'temporary marriages' and 'prudential dissimulation' ('the right to lie about one's beliefs as long as the lie is in the wider interests of the faith')." As a long-time resident of Teheran and the husband of an Iranian, de Bellaigue has access to people and situations that other correspondents might not have.

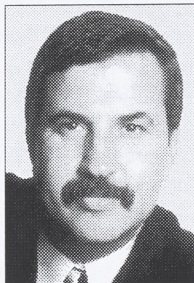


Christopher de Bellaigue

New Books

GLOBAL

THE WORLD is getting "flatter" because some Third World nations now are able to compete against industrial nations, **Thomas Friedman** argues in "The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century" [New



Thomas Friedman

York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux]. Nations such as India and China now compete in the global economy, in part because developments such as the Internet help deliver knowledge and information to them, he writes. Telecommunication companies have wired the world with fiber-optic cable, and the dot-com bust led companies to cut costs by outsourcing. Friedman reports that Asian countries now produce eight times as many bachelor's degrees in engineering as the United States, and the proportion of foreign-born Ph.D.s in the American science and engineering labor force has risen to 38 percent. In a *New York Times* review, OPC member **Fareed Zakaria**, editor of *Newsweek International*, wrote: "The book is done in Friedman's trademark

style. You travel with him, meet his wife and kids, learn about his friends and sit in on his interviews. Some find this irritating. I think it works in making complicated ideas accessible." Now a *New York Times* columnist, Friedman was a UPI correspondent in London and Beirut, a *Times* correspondent in Beirut, Israel and the White House, and winner of a 1988 Pulitzer Prize for his reporting from Israel.

MIDDLE EAST

AFTER REPORTING from the Middle East for several publications, **Yaroslav Trofimov** joined *The Wall Street Journal* in 1999 and two years later became the paper's roving correspondent in the Middle East, Africa, Central Asia and the Balkans.



Yaroslav Trofimov

Two days after 9/11, the *WSJ* assigned him to find out how the Muslim world was reacting to the terrorist attacks in the United States, an assignment for which he was uniquely qualified. He speaks Arabic fluently and possesses an Italian passport. Trofimov, an OPC member who lives in Rome with his wife and two children, spent three years traveling through nearly a dozen predominantly Muslim countries and regions on three continents, from Arab capitals to ramshackle African villages, from Bosnia's snow-covered mountains to the Afghan deserts of Kandahar. He reports his findings in "Faith at War: A Journey on the Frontlines of Islam, from Baghdad to

Timbuktu" [New York: Henry Holt & Company]. Trofimov gained access to Islamic politicians, religious clerics, and ordinary Muslims; explored illegal gun markets in Iraq; visited jihadi training compounds in Yemen; and trekked through southern Lebanon with Hezbollah's army.

Trofimov writes: "Like its early twentieth-century contemporaries Nazism and Communism, political Islam is grounded in a totalitarian idea of purity, in this case of religion rather than of race or class.... This political idea of Islam as a magic cure for all economic and social ills, more than the religion itself, unifies the disparate parts of the Islamic world in a way that's hard to imagine for Christian nations." The author concludes "that what started as a war against terrorism in 2001 is mutating into an intractable, almost apocalyptic conflict between the West and Islam."

In his acknowledgments, Trofimov wrote: "Special gratitude is due to a friend and a colleague who is no longer with us—**Danny Pearl**. In the months before his cruel death, he shared with me scores of contacts in the Arab world—an act of generosity that is not all that common in the competitive reporting profession. I still don't have the courage to delete his number from my cell phone's memory." The author also expressed thanks to Danny's widow, OPC member **Mariane Pearl**.

CHRISTOPHER de BELLAIGUE titles his book "In the Rose Garden of the Martyrs: A Memoir of Iran" [New York: Harper Collins] after a cemetery in
(Continued on Page 11)

PANEL ON BLOGS

Wednesday, June 1
at 5:30pm

ALAN FEUER

"Over There"

Monday, June 6
at 6:00pm

HUGH MULLIGAN

"Been Everywhere
Got Nowhere"

Wednesday, June 15
at 5:30pm

All at Club Quarters
40 West 45 Street

RSVP: 212-626-9220

The Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA